

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claim 9, which has been amended to improve grammar and to recite, more clearly, "a first chisel tip" and a "second chisel tip."

Claims 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hood (US 5,342,380; newly cited). Without acceding to the § 103 rejection and in the interests of securing an early Notice of Allowance, Claims 12, 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 17–24, depending from Claim 9, have been added. Support for these claims may be found, for example, in the Specification at Pages 8–9 (Paragraphs 0063 to 0068), and in Figures 4, 5b, 10a–10f, etc. No new matter has been introduced, and Applicants submit that Claims 17–24 are allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

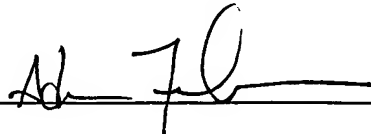
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck P.C.

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By: _____

1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 783-6040 (voice)
(202) 783-6031 (fax)

Adam M. Treiber
Reg. No. 48,000

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